

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, September 17, 2004

CHIEF RAMSEY SWEARS IN 71 NEW SUPERVISORY OFFICIALS

The supervisory ranks of the MPDC are getting a major boost. Chief Ramsey administered the oath of office to nine new captains, 26 new lieutenants and 36 new sergeants during a ceremony Friday morning at DAR Constitution Hall in Northwest. Chief Ramsey announced the promotions last month, and the newly promoted officials have completed a supervisory training course designed specifically for their new ranks. In his remarks to the promotees and their families, the Chief reminded the new captains, lieutenants and sergeants to never forget where they came from. "Always remember what it was like when you were a police officer," Ramsey said. "Remember the frustrations and the stress that police officers often feel. Remember the very real dangers that our officers face out on our streets. And most of all, remember the little things—the acknowledgment, the pat on the back, the 'thank-you'—that can make the job a little less frustrating and a little more rewarding to our officers." The newly promoted members are being assigned to a variety of units, with most going to the seven police districts.

① For more information, including a list of the new captains, lieutenants and sergeants, go to:

<http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2887>

MPDC ISSUES 53,000 AGGRESSIVE DRIVING TICKETS DURING SMOOTH OPERATOR 2004

The MPDC issued a total of 53,259 Notices of Infraction for aggressive driving offenses during the 2004 regional Smooth Operator campaign. The offenses include running red lights and stop signs; following too closely, or tailgating; changing lanes unsafely; failing to yield the right of way; improper passing; and speeding. Started in 1997, Smooth Operator is a regional program of more than 50 law enforcement agencies and other traffic safety partners in the greater DC region. The goal is to reduce the incidence of aggressive driving through four concentrated enforcement "waves" during the summer months, complemented with an extensive public education media campaign. Of the total number of citations issued by the MPDC this year, almost 17,000 were written by police officers, with the remainder generated by the District's automated enforcement cameras. The number of officer-issued citations grew by more than 50 percent between 2002 and 2004. The Second District led the city in Smooth Operator activity this year, with more than 4,000 NOIs during the four enforcement waves, including almost 2,300 in the August wave alone. Over the past eight years, approximately 1 million tickets have been issued by area law enforcement agencies as part of Smooth Operator, and the annual number of citations has quadrupled during that time period.

① Details on Smooth Operator, including the 2004 results in DC, can be found at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtm>

① For information on DC's red-light and photo radar speeding reduction camera programs, as well as other traffic safety initiatives, visit:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm>

SPOTLIGHT ON...THE MPDC LATINO LIAISON UNIT

Mayor Williams this week declared September 15 to October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in the District of Columbia. During this commemorative month, DC residents are reminded of the public safety services provided by the MPDC's Latino Liaison Unit. Created in September 2002, the LLU is headed by Sgt. Juan Espinal and is staffed by one detective and six officers, all of whom are bilingual in Spanish and English. Working with the seven police districts and other MPDC units, the LLU provides a number of services to DC's diverse Latino communities. These include community policing, crime prevention, criminal investigations, assistance to victims of crime and language translation in the field. The unit's headquarters is in the SunTrust Bank building at 18th Street and Columbia Road, NW, in the heart of the Adams Morgan community. Although it is organizationally part of the Third Police District, the LLU provides services to members of the Latino community in all parts of DC. According to 2002 Census estimates, there are more than 51,000 Latinos in DC, an increase of 56 percent over 1990.

MPDC RECRUITING FOR SEVERAL CIVILIAN CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The MPDC is accepting applications for a number of civilian career opportunities in the agency. The most recent postings include a customer service specialist in the Office of the Chief of Police, who will provide support on special projects and day-to-day tasks in the office, including correspondence, and a motor vehicle operator in the Evidence Control Branch, who will be responsible for transporting vehicles to and from the impoundment lot and handling inquiries about impounded vehicles. Other career opportunities include a general engineer/project manager, who will oversee and coordinate planning and construction efforts on major engineering issues related to MPDC facilities; biologists to work as forensic examiners for the MPDC at the FBI Lab in Quantico, Virginia; a staff assistant in the Business Services Division, and bilingual police communications operators to work in the Public Safety Communications Center.

NEWS & NOTES

Golf Tournament to Benefit Police Survivors. The DC Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors holds its first "DC-COPS Classic" golf tournament this Monday, September 20, at the South Riding Golf Course in Virginia. The tournament supports the work of DC-COPS, which assists the surviving family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Details at <http://www.dc-cops.org>.

"Chatting with the Chief" on WHUR Radio. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls from 6:40-7 pm, on Tuesday, September 21, during his monthly "Chatting with the Chief" program on WHUR 96.3-FM. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/media/media.shtm>.

Auto Theft Prevention Family Day. Regional Operations Command-East, along with American Skyline Insurance Company and Enterprise Rent-a-Car, will host the East of the River Auto Theft Prevention Family Day on Saturday, October 9. The event, which includes a give-away of free anti-theft devices to Ward 7 and 8 residents, will run from 10 am-2 pm at the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club at 4103 Benning Road, NE. For details, call ROC-East at (202) 645-5333.

① For more on the Latino Liaison Unit, including contact information, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/llu.shtm>

① En Español:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/llu_spanish.shtm

① Read the news release on the Mayor's declaration of Hispanic Heritage Month at:
<http://dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=637&mon=200409>

① Details on these and other positions, including salaries, closing dates, requirements and application procedures, are available online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

① The MPDC also offers volunteer opportunities with the Police Reserve Corps. Learn more at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/services_PRC.shtm

① For information on career opportunities for sworn police officers, including lateral-hire officers from other agencies, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 9/17/04)

- 2004: 137
- 2003: 180
- % Change: -23.9%
- Closure Rate: 56.2% (77 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 9/11/04)

- Total: 930
- Drugs: 146
- Weapons: 27
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 18
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 10

Firearm Recoveries (as of 9/15/04)

- September: 76
- 2004 Total: 1,434

Traffic Fatalities (as of 9/17/04)

- 2004: 38
- 2003: 48
- % Change: -20.8%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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